

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/082,210

Examiner

Shawn S An

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/22/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date see attachment #8.
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Applicants' arguments or remarks as filed on 11/22/2004 have been carefully considered and reviewed.

2. Applicants' filing of IDS on 5/24/2002 has been acknowledged and reviewed.

3. Claims 1-9 are allowed.

4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Claims 1-9 recite novel features of an organ-region-indicating system incorporated in an electronic endoscope system, comprising:

an organ-region-image database, constituted on the basis of an organ map, in which a plurality of reference data indicating distinctive organ-regions of the organ map and a plurality of image data representing the distinctive organ-regions are correspondingly stored;

a still-image-capturing system for retrieving a frame of still image data as referential image data from the video signal at suitable regular time intervals;

a searching system that searches the organ-region-image database for image data which coincides with the referential image data after the retrieval of the frame of still image data from the video signal by the still-image capturing system; and

a reference data display control system for displaying corresponding reference data on the monitor only when the image data, which coincides with the reference image data, is found by the searching system, whereby an endoscope image displayed as the motion image on the monitor is indicated by the corresponding reference data displayed thereon.

The prior art of records fail to anticipate or make obvious the novel features (emphasis added on underlined limitations) as discussed above.

Art Unit: 2613

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Shawn S. An whose telephone number is 571-272-7324.



**SHAWN AN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

4/5/05